

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Twenty-five Years Ago column; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Congress of Physical Therapy, Philadelphia, September 10-13. Mr. Marion G. Smith, 30 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Secretary.

American Ophthalmological Society, Lucerne-in-Quebec, Canada, July 9-11. Dr. J. Milton Griscom, 2213 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Secretary.

New Mexico Medical Society, Las Vegas, July 19-21. Dr. L. B. Cohenour, 219 West Central Avenue, Albuquerque, Secretary.

Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society, Butte, Montana, July 16-18. Dr. F. C. Cordes, Fitzhugh Building, San Francisco, Secretary.

Medical Broadcasts*

American Medical Association Health Talks.—The American Medical Association broadcasts on a western network of the Columbia Broadcasting System each Thursday afternoon on the Educational Forum from 4:30 to 4:45, central standard time.

San Francisco County Medical Society.—The San Francisco County Medical Society broadcasts every Tuesday from station KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and over station KFRC, 1:15 p. m.

Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of July is as follows: Tuesday, July 3—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, July 7—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
Saturday, July 7—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, July 10—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, July 14—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
Saturday, July 14—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, July 17—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, July 21—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
Saturday, July 21—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, July 24—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, July 28—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
Saturday, July 28—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, July 31—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.
Dr. J. Eastman Sheehan has been appointed professor of plastic reparative surgery at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, and a department has been organized for postgraduate teaching in this subject.

Dr. Sidney V. Haas has been appointed professor of pediatrics at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.

Dr. James P. Croce has been appointed clinical professor of internal medicine at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (giving station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Some Important State Election Dates:

July 17—Last day for filing initiative petitions. One hundred and eleven thousand valid signatures are required to place an initiative measure upon the ballot.

July 18—Last day for registration for the primary election.

August 28—Primary election.

September 27—Last day of registration for the general election.

November 6—General election.

Query—Are you registered?

American Board of Ophthalmology.—The American Board of Ophthalmology will this year conduct a special examination at the time of the meeting of the Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society in Butte on July 16, and to accommodate those who cannot go to Butte an examination will be held at San Francisco about July 25.

The fee for the examination and the certificate is \$50. Of this sum, \$25 must accompany the application and the balance must be paid when the certificate is ready for issuance. No refunds are made. If the candidate fails in an examination he will be permitted to take a second examination within three years without additional fee.

Dr. William H. Wilder, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, is the secretary of the board, from whom application blanks and all necessary information may be obtained.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of following letter: Regulating payment of vouchers for medical services rendered to injured Civil Works Administration employees.

Federal Civil Works Administration for
California

49 Fourth Street
San Francisco

Edward Macauley, Administrator

June 25, 1934.

To the Editor:—As per our telephone conversation with Secretary Pope of the California Medical Association this morning, I am attaching hereto a bulletin from the United States Employees' Compensation Commission and ask that you give it as wide publicity as possible throughout your Association. Also if you know of any means whereby you can reach the non-members of your Association, I would appreciate their being contacted also.

It is requested that the bulletin be printed verbatim and that my name and title be used as authority for the dissemination of this information.

I would also appreciate it if you could get word at the same time to the doctors, hospitals, nurses, medical supply houses and drug stores not to communicate direct with the Commission in Washington regarding their bills. Any person or firm has a right to do so, but it only results in loss of time since the Commission refers all matters back to my office for investigation. If a creditor insists on writing to Washington,

he will greatly oblige if, at the same time, he sends us a copy of his letter and/or bill and in all cases the name of the injured employee should be connected with the claim, since it is by use of an alphabetical file containing the name of all injured CWA employees that we can find a case.

We are making every effort to clean up the 12,000 California CWA Compensation cases as speedily as possible. In justice to the men who have compensation coming we have given their cases priority, and the medical vouchers connected with these cases will naturally be paid first. This leaves the cases involving medical expense only to the last, but I think you will agree that this was the most humane way to handle the work since the injured employees were in such dire need of their compensation.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD MACAULEY,
Civil Works Administrator for California.
(Signed) By Bartle M. Harvey,
Insurance Officer of Civil Works for California.

To All Persons Interested in the Payment of Vouchers for Medical Services Rendered to Injured Civil Works Administration Employees:

A certain amount of delay in the settlement of vouchers for medical services rendered injured employees of the Civil Works Administration is unavoidable. Legislation extending compensation benefits to these employees was not approved until February 15, 1934, and the Commission has had to engage personnel and set up its organization to handle the large volume of additional work which is involved in the settlement of claims arising out of Civil Works employment.

Before approving vouchers for medical services, it is necessary for the Commission to have received from the local Civil Works Administrators complete reports relating to the injury of the employee concerned. Since the entire work program was organized very quickly, some localities were slow in setting up the necessary local administration to take care of injury reports, and due to unfamiliarity of the personnel with the requirements and procedure, many reports of injury have been incorrectly filed, necessitating correspondence to obtain the information which was lacking.

In view of the problem presented, the Commission bespeaks the patience of physicians and others who have bills for medical services pending. Every possible effort is being made by the Commission to speed up the work of examining and certifying these claims for payment, and it is believed that within a short time considerable progress will be made in further expediting these payments.

U. S. EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION.
Bartle M. Harvey,
Insurance Officer of Civil Works for California.

Subject of following letter: Comments on the paper, "The Challenge of Allergy in Medical Practice" printed in the May "California and Western Medicine":

May 25, 1934.

To the Editor:—I would appreciate it very much if you would publish the following discussion of a paper entitled "The Challenge of Allergy in Medical Practice" by Dr. Albert H. Rowe, which appeared in the May number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE:

"This paper demonstrates the widely divergent views pertaining to the subject of allergy, most workers in this field not being in accord with the author that so many diseases of mankind are allergic. It is true that many allergic conditions are overlooked, for example, mild vasomotor rhinitis and hay fever, which are seen so frequently in children and considered common

colds. On the other hand, one must not let the enthusiasm of the specialist run away with one's critical acumen.

"The author's statement that bronchial asthma in children is usually due to a food sensitivity is not in accord with our own experience in that, in a study of over fifteen hundred children completely and thoroughly tested, only one in one hundred reacted to foods alone, while 80 per cent were multiple sensitive to foods and other substances such as pollen, epidermals, etc. It is not unusual for infants to be sensitive to the inhalants alone—perhaps not as frequently as with foods.

"The general experience of most workers in the field of asthma as regards the diagnosis 'bacterial asthma,' is that such diagnosis is arrived at by a process of elimination. The diagnosis is a negative one, and only presumptive of a bacterial etiology, since as yet there has never been scientific proof of the existence of such a clinical entity. Those whose work would indicate the contrary of this are open to the criticism that the production or relief of attacks of asthma by the injection of bacterial substances have not proved that such reactions are specific in nature.

"We are thoroughly in accord with the author that in arriving at correct diagnosis the taking of a careful and searching history from the patient as to heredity, occupation, environment, clinical history and the various laboratory studies such as blood, x-ray, and lastly and most important, protein testing, are necessary.

"The treatment is primarily dependent upon determination of a specific etiology, as the author points out. The results of treatment are dependent upon the close coöperation of patient and physician and the realization that this condition is usually a chronic and constitutional one requiring considerable time and patience on the part of the allergic individual and clinical skill and ingenuity on the part of the physician, and finally, that allergic disease cannot be treated by stereotyped methods, each individual being a problem in himself."

Very truly yours,

GEORGE PINES, M. D.

Subject of Following Letter: A protest by the Human Betterment Foundation of California regarding a movie film:*

To the Editor:—There is now circulating in the United States, put out by the same producers as "Elysia," the nudist colony movie, a motion picture entitled "Tomorrow's Children," which professes to tell the "truth about sterilization." It is entirely misleading, and tends to scare people as to the administration of a sterilization law, under fictitious conditions which we feel sure could not occur in any American state. The advertising that has appeared in the newspapers is even more objectionable than the general tone of the film. Some effort ought to be made to present a correct statement of the facts to the public of any city where the film is shown.

If it should be shown in your city, would it not be possible to send statements to the newspapers, in order to call attention to the fact that this film is misleading and unfair to sterilization? We believe such action on the part of responsible local persons would have a very valuable influence in preventing the growth of prejudice against the proper administration of sound and well-protected sterilization laws in the United States.

Cordially yours,

HUMAN BETTERMENT FOUNDATION.

By E. S. Gosney, President.

Pacific Southwest Bldg., Pasadena.

* For two articles on topic, "Who Should Be Sterilized," see June CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 429, and this issue, page 54.